

The 1993 Blue Planet Prize: Its Two Awards

The Asahi Glass Foundation (Chairman, Hideaki Yamashita) has selected the winners of the 2nd Blue Planet Prize, a dual international award established in April 1991 by the Foundation to commend individuals and institutions whose achievements have contributed effectively to the solving of environmental problems.

The Blue Planet Prize Academic Award, which recognizes truly outstanding research achievements, is awarded to Dr Charles David Keeling, of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego. Dr Keeling has conducted pioneering research into atmospheric and oceanic carbon dioxide levels, as well as the global carbon dioxide cycle.

The Blue Planet Prize Development and Implementation Award, which acknowledges active involvement in, and exceptional contributions to, solving global environmental problems, is awarded to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, today known more generally as IUCN: The World Conservation Union, an independent, international organization that has achieved eye-opening results in conserving Nature and biological diversity over some 45 years. In addition to world-wide public recognition, each winner receives ¥50 millions. Also, an awards ceremony and a symposium to commemorate the occasion is being held in Tokyo during 2–3 November 1993.

Dr Charles David Keeling was the first to realize the importance of the scientific measuring of atmospheric carbon dioxide levels. He began precise examinations in 1958, using non-dispersive infrared analysis at the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii. Continuing his observations and analyses for over 30 years, Dr Keeling has now amassed a priceless body of data that is of great use to the scientists of the world. His careful, long-term measurements of atmospheric carbon dioxide levels constitute scientific data that are practically indispensable to discussions of the global warming problem today. Since 1968, Dr Keeling has been Professor of Oceanography at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California at San Diego.

IUCN: The World Conservation Union was founded in 1948* and strives to conserve Nature and biological diversity for future generations. This independent, international organization fulfills a leadership role in the formulation of solutions to environmental problems and methods for their implementation, as well as in the distribution of information based on scientific analysis and monitoring. IUCN is a union of over 770 corporate members, including 62 governments, some 100 governmental agencies, and over 600 nongovernmental organ-

* As the International Union for Protection of Nature (IUPN). — Ed.



FIG. 1. Dr Martin W. Holdgate, Director-General (third person from left, standing in front), with some Staff of IUCN — The World Conservation Union — outside the main entrance to their new World Headquarters at Gland.

izations and affiliates from around the world. In addition, over 6,000 scientists and other experts participate in a volunteer network of commission members etc. spanning important conservation and development disciplines. IUCN's achievements include the formation of global conservation strategies; playing a major role in important international agreements, such as the World Heritage Convention (natural sites) and the Ramsar Convention (wetlands); planning and executing projects in cooperation with local governments; setting up and managing comprehensive environmental databases; and production of an extensive series of scientific and technical publications. IUCN headquarters are located in Switzerland at Gland in the Canton of Vaud. Dr Martin W. Holdgate is currently the Director-General (Fig. 1).

The selection process for the two award-winners began in August 1992, when approximately 2,200 nominators, 950 of whom were from 67 countries besides Japan, nominated 44 candidates for the Academic Award and 68 candidates for the Development and Implementation Award. In addition to holding a number of meetings of the Selection Committee, we solicited the opinions of overseas advisers, thus ensuring impartiality. The final results were decided at the Board of Directors' meeting in May, in consultation with the six directors of the Presentation Committee.

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Fondazione ENI Enrico Mattei

Growing recognition of the importance of research in the environmental field led the ENI Group, the Italian public energy and chemical company, to establish in 1989 Fondazione ENI Enrico Mattei, a non-profit, non-partisan institution. Since it became operational in 1990, the Fondazione has pursued, as its main objective, research on the relationship between energy, the environment, and economics/economic development. The wide range of

activities undertaken so far share some common features. Thus they have an international dimension, as in 1992, out of about 140 specialists associated with our activities, 70% belonged to foreign universities and research centres or groups. Continuous cooperation between the Fondazione and foreign researchers is ensured, among other circumstances, through the organization of various conferences and workshops. In 1992, eight major meetings were or-